

## Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Public Involvement Plan

### Introduction

The Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (Study) has been selected to be one of three, two-year studies funded through the Bureau of Reclamation's Basin Study Program. The Study will provide a comprehensive analysis of current and future imbalances in water supply and demand projected through 2060 in the Colorado River Basin (Basin) and the adjacent areas of the Basin States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) that receive Colorado River water; potential impacts of climate variability and climate change on water supply and demand; and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies and options to resolve those imbalances. A primary objective of the Study is prioritization of identified strategies and options and the recommendation for potential future feasibility studies, Congressional authorization, environmental compliance activities, demonstration programs, and/or implementation.

The Study is cost-shared on a 50/50 basis between the Study partners: Reclamation (the Federal Cost-Share Partner) and agencies in the Basin States (the non-Federal Cost-Share Partners). Because the Colorado River Basin spans two Reclamation regions, Reclamation is represented by both the Upper Colorado Regional Office and the Lower Colorado Regional Office.

The Study partners will facilitate public involvement to solicit and incorporate stakeholder input throughout the study. This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) provides the framework for that effort.

### Approach

Several communication methods will be employed to effectively maintain communication with all interested stakeholders and to provide, seek, and receive information. A response will be provided for all comments received. All information received regarding technical aspects of the Study will be considered and feedback regarding that consideration will be provided.

All outreach materials, information received, and feedback provided will be archived in a centralized electronic filing system. As the Study progresses, the effectiveness of the public involvement will be assessed periodically and adjustments will be made as necessary to ensure that appropriate communication and feedback is occurring.

### Communication Methods

Effective communication is essential for the ongoing success of the Study. The methods of communication that will be used to disseminate information and accept input during the course of this Study include the following:

- a Study website will be maintained to provide up-to-date, on-line information;
- an e-mail address will be established to facilitate communication electronically;
- a facsimile (fax) telephone number will be established to allow communication by fax;
- points-of-contact will be established in the Upper Colorado and the Lower Colorado Regions to facilitate additional information exchange;
- news releases and informational mailings will be provided as appropriate;
- a mailing list will be established and maintained to ensure that all interested stakeholders receive information;
- public meetings will be held at strategic points throughout the Study; and
- additional meetings with interested stakeholders groups will be held as appropriate.

Additional information on each of these methods is provided below.

## Web Site

Reclamation's Study web site will be used to post up-to-date information. Web site content will be updated periodically, particularly at major milestones and prior to public meetings. In addition, the web site will be used as a tool for soliciting input from stakeholders. The Study web page is: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html>.

## E-mail

Reclamation has established a Study e-mail address to disseminate information regarding the Study and to receive input. The Study e-mail address is: [ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov](mailto:ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov).

## Facsimile

Input may also be submitted by facsimile at: 702-293-8156.

## Points-of-Contact

For additional information, questions, or comments on the Study, Reclamation has designated two Study Points of Contact:

- Lower Colorado Region: Amber Cunningham at 702-293-8472 or [ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov](mailto:ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov)
- Upper Colorado Region: Deborah Lawler at 801-524-3685 or [ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov](mailto:ColoradoRiverBasinStudy@usbr.gov).

## News Releases and Informational Mailings

News releases and other informational mailings will occur near major milestones throughout the Study to inform stakeholders and the public of the Study status, provide opportunities for input, and provide meeting information including dates and locations of the public meetings.

## Mailing List

Informational mailings will be sent to interested stakeholders on the Study mailing list (either physically, electronically, or both). During each informational mailing, the recipient will be asked if he or she would like to remain on the list. Individuals will be added to the mailing list when requested through the Study e-mail address or through attendance at a public meeting captured on the sign-in sheet. An initial mailing will be made in January 2010 to a list of Colorado River stakeholders who were involved in similar prior studies.

## Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held at strategic points throughout the Study, beginning with an initial meeting in the spring of 2010. Additionally, prior to completion of each Study phase, public meetings will be held to provide a summary of the results of the previous phase and to seek comments on the upcoming phase of the Study, thereby allowing consideration of information and suggestions by the public for incorporation in the Study.

Four public meetings are currently envisioned as follows:

1. Targeted for March 2010 - Meeting to discuss the Study objectives, structure, schedule, PIP, the proposed approach for Phase 1 (assessment of current and future water supply), and Phase 2 (assessment of current and future water demand);
2. Targeted for September 2010 – Meeting to discuss the results of Phases 1 and 2 and the proposed approach for Phase 3 (analysis of the current and future system reliability);
3. Targeted for April 2011 – Meeting to discuss the results of Phase 3 and the proposed approach for Phase 4 (analysis of strategies and options for resolving supply/demand imbalances); and
4. Targeted for August 2011 – Meeting to discuss the results of Phase 4.

## Additional Meetings with Interested Stakeholder Groups

During the course of the Study, additional meetings may be held with interested stakeholder groups to solicit additional input, expertise, data, and information. As appropriate, representatives of interested stakeholder groups may participate in specific Study tasks to facilitate incorporation of such input into the Study.

Interested stakeholder groups may include, but are not limited to Federal agencies, Native American tribes and communities, water districts, scientific research groups, hydropower agencies and other representatives of the energy industry, environmental groups, and representatives of the recreational industry. An initial mailing will be made in January 2010 to a list of interest groups who were involved in similar prior studies to gauge their interest and capability for participating in the Study. Other interest groups are encouraged to provide their contact information via one of the communication methods listed above.